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For Release to PM's, AUGUST 22, 1962

SURPLUS BIG-GAME SALE ANNOUNCED

If you would like a live longhorn or buffalo for the home "ranch," or a few buffalo or elk steaks for the freezer, the Department of the Interior suggests that you place your order before September 30, 1962, for annual surplus big-game disposal sales at three National Wildlife Refuges.

Removal of a specified number of animals from these refuges is necessary each year to keep the herds from exceeding the carrying capacity of their ranges.

A total of 233 buffalo, 75 elk, and 137 longhorn cattle will be sold this year. The buffalo will be sold from all three refuges--Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Okla.; Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebr.; and the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. Longhorns will be sold from Wichita Mountains and Fort Niobrara. Longhorn sales will be live animals only. Elk sales will be only from the Wichita Mountains Refuge. There will be no sales of live elk.

Buffalo will be sold at \$180 each for live animals, and from \$220 to \$270 per carcass for butchered animals, depending on the type of processing. Quarters and halves also will be sold. Buffalo and elk meat may be purchased packaged and frozen ready for the freezer. Butchered elk prices will range from \$110 to \$145 per animal, again varying with the type of processing. A half carcass is the minimum quantity that can be purchased. The longhorn cattle will be sold only through local public auctions, to be held September 20 at the Wichita Mountains Refuge, and October 9 at Fort Niobrara.

If the number of orders received by refuge managers on or before September 30, exceeds the number of animals authorized for disposal, a drawing will be held October 1 to select applicants. Any orders received after September 30 will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis, provided animals or meat are still available after that date.

The official price list and conditions of sale can be obtained from the Refuge Managers of the respective refuges or from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., but orders should be sent only to the manager of the refuge involved.

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